

# Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows of the surrounding environment. The person is wearing a dark, textured garment, possibly a robe or a heavy sweater. The background is almost entirely black, with some faint, out-of-focus light patterns suggesting an interior space with architectural details.

**7. God's House, A House of Prayer**

**Isaiah 56:7 "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."**

**Meaning:** Jesus made reference to this Old Testament verse when He cast out those who sold in the temple. Just as the temple was set aside for worship, so should the house of God, which we meet in and call church. As worship is prayer, the house of God is a place set apart for worship. God has given us access to Him through prayer no matter where we are, but God's house should have prayer as its chief attraction, most familiar exercise, and its most sacred practice.

**Application:** The church house should be a building set apart for prayer. The great prayer warrior E. M. Bounds said, "With prayer, the house of God becomes a living sanctuary; without prayer, a church is like a body without spirit, it is a dead, inanimate thing." God did not call His house the house of rest, or activity, or even preaching. He called it a house of prayer. The life of every church is dependent upon prayer!

## **Other Verses for Study:** Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46

1. God said His house would be called an house of prayer for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. How often do you pray at your church? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The life of every church is dependent upon what?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**"When prayer is a stranger at the house of God, it ceases to be God's house at all."**